

**Claims:**

1. An information acquisition method for acquiring information relating to a travel destination of a mobile body, comprising:

5 a first step of accumulating, as a travel history, a travel route obtained from a history of position information of the mobile body;

a second step of determining, as a condition for retrieval, a kind and a category of a key at retrieval on the travel history; and

10 a third step of performing retrieval on the travel history under the condition for retrieval to predict one or more travel destinations or travel routes where the mobile body will advance, based on a result of the retrieval,

wherein information relating to a predicted travel destination or a predicted travel route is acquired.

15 2. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein the kind of the key in the second step includes at least one of time, date, weather, and a position and a travel route of the mobile body.

20 3. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, further comprising: a step of generating transition state information indicating past position transition of the mobile body from the travel history,

wherein in the third step, the retrieval is performed on the transition state information.

25 4. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein in the second step, determination of the condition for retrieval is performed based on statistical processing.

5. The information acquisition method of Claim 4, wherein the second step includes:

a step (a) of selecting a candidate of the condition for retrieval; and

5 a step (b) of calculating entropy for each prediction probability value of one or more travel destinations where the mobile body might advance under a selected condition candidate, and

wherein the steps (a) and (b) are repeated alternately, and the condition for retrieval is specified from the selected candidates based on values of the calculated entropies.

10

6. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein

in the third step,

each prediction probability of one or more travel destinations where the mobile body might advance is obtained, and

15

prediction is performed based on each obtained prediction probability.

7. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein the travel history is accumulated in a form of inter-node transition.

20

8. The information acquisition method of Claim 7, wherein at least one of nodes indicates a landmark, an area, or an intersection.

9. The information acquisition method of Claim 7, wherein

25 an intersection through which the mobile body have traveled in two or more directions among intersections in a travel route is set as a node.

10 The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein

in the first step, the travel history is accumulated in a form of segment of travel start and travel end.

11. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, further comprising the step  
5 of:

predicting a new travel destination or a new travel route where the mobile body will advance before the mobile body starts a travel from the travel destination or the travel route predicted in the third step.

12. The information acquisition method of Claim 1, wherein  
10 information relating to the predicted travel destination or the predicted travel route is acquired via a network.

13. An information presenting method for presenting information relating to a  
15 travel destination of a mobile body, comprising:

a first step of acquiring relating information on a travel destination predicted according to the information acquisition method of Claim 1; and

a second step of determining information to be presented on the travel destination based on the information acquired in the first step,

20 wherein the determined information to be presented is presented.

14. The information presenting method of Claim 13, wherein

the second step includes the steps of :

referencing information indicating a correspondence among positions, names, and  
25 genre names to which the positions belong; and

determining at least one of the name and the genre name of the travel determination as information to be presented.

15. The information presenting method of Claim 14, wherein  
the first step includes the step of obtaining a prediction probability of the predicted  
travel destination, and

5 the second step includes the step of determining, as information to be presented,  
the name of the predicted destination when the prediction probability of the predicted  
travel destination exceeds a predetermined value, and otherwise determining the genre  
name thereof as information to be presented.

10 16. The information presenting method of Claim 13, wherein  
the first step includes the step of calculating an estimated necessary time for  
transferring from a current position of the mobile body to the predicted travel destination  
as relating information by referencing the travel history.

15 17. The information presenting method of Claim 16, wherein  
in the first step,  
road/traffic information up to the travel destination is acquired via the network,  
and

in the second step,  
20 an actual necessary time up to the travel destination with consideration of traffic  
circumstances is estimated by referencing the estimated necessary time and the road/traffic  
information.

25 18. The information presenting method of Claim 17, wherein  
in the second step,  
when the estimated actual necessary time does not satisfy a predetermined  
condition, a route other than the predicted travel route is searched.

19. The information presenting method of Claim 13, wherein the information to be presented includes commercial information relating to the travel destination.

5

20. The information presenting method of Claim 13, wherein the information to be presented includes road/traffic information up to the travel destination.

10

21. The information presenting method of Claim 13, wherein in the second step, a cognitive load of a user who receives information presentation is taken account in determining information to be presented.

15

22. An information acquisition system comprising:  
a history accumulation section that accumulates, as a travel history, a travel route obtained from a history of position information of a mobile body;  
a condition determination section that determines, as a condition for retrieval, a kind and a category of a key at retrieval on the travel history accumulated in the history accumulation section; and

20

a prediction section that performs retrieval on the travel history under the condition for retrieval to predict one or more travel destinations for which the mobile body will advance based on a result of the retrieval,

wherein information relating to the travel destination predicted by the prediction section is acquired.

25

23. The information acquisition system in Claim 22, wherein the history accumulation section includes a transition state information generation

section that generates transition state information indicating past position transition of the mobile body from the accumulated travel history, and

the prediction section performs retrieval on the transition state information.

- 5           24. A program for allowing a computer that at least one of information equipment and a server includes to execute the information acquisition method of Claim 1.